

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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R 190812Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4311  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 0902

BRUSSELS FOR EC

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SENV, UNEP  
SUBJ: UNEP: WEO CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENCY OF SIXT SESSION OF  
GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. AT INSTIGATION OF FRENCH AND FRG REPS., WEOG MEETING,  
UNDER DANISH CHAIRMAN, MET JANUARY 18 DURING LUNCHEON RECESS  
OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL WEO CONDI-  
DATES FOR OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF GC VI. (NOTE: ALL REGIONS  
HAVE NOW SERVED IN PRESIDENCY UNDER ROTATION PRESCRIBED IN  
ARTICLE IV OF UNEP RULES OF PROCEDURE AND WEO SECOND TERM  
COMES UP AT GV VI) FRENCH, WITH FRG BACKING, TOOK INITIATIVE  
TO PROMOTE CANDIDACY OF SPAIN, NOTING THAT EC MEMBERS HAD  
TAKEN DECISION AT MEETING ON JANUARY 12, THAT NO EC CANDIDATE  
WOULD BE PUT FORWARD. ALTHOUGH BELGIUM CONFIRMED THIS EC  
DECISION, DANES, TO GLEE OF NON-EC EUROPEANS, SEEMED UNAWARE  
ANY SUCH DECISION.

2. SWEDES THOUGHT THAT BEFORE FINAL DECISION TAKEN, POLL  
SHOULD BE CONDUCTED PRIVATELY BY CHAIRMAN OF ALL WEOG PAR-  
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TICIPANTS TO SEE IF OTHER POTENTIAL CANDIDATES EXISTED.  
CANADIANS ADDED THAT MEMBERS SHOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY CONSULT  
CAPITALS AND AGREED THAT NO NEED EXISTED FOR IMMEDIATE  
DECISION. FRENCH RE SAID HE HAD HOPED MATTER COULD BE  
QUICKLY SETTLED AND OPINED THAT HE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT  
MEMBERS WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT OCCASION OF INFORMAL  
CONSULTATIONS PROVIDED IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO RESOLVE QUESTION.

HE ADDED THAT HE WAS AT LOSS TO UNDERSTAND HOW THERE COULD BE ANY MISUNDERSTANDING OF EC GROUP POSITION, ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZED THAT EC "COHESION" THESE MATTERS WAS WELL KNOWN IN INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES.

3. SPANISH REP, WHO ENTERED MEETING MIDWAY, DISCLAIMED ANY FOREKNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD SOME MEMBERS WERE INTERESTED IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S PUTTING FORWARD A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY. IF THIS WERE CORRECT, HE WOULD WANT TO CONSULT WITH THOSE MEMBERS AND THEN CONSULT MADRID.

4. POINT WAS MADE DURING CONSULTATIONS THAT CANDIDATE WHOULD COME FROM MEMBER STATE WHOSE TERM ON COUNCIL WOULD EXTEND THROUGH GC/VII, WHICH SPAIN'S TERM DOES. IMPORTANCE OF CANDIDATE'S HAVING DEMONSTRATED CAPACITY FOR EXERCISING FUNCTIONS OF PRESIDING OFFICER ALSO STRESSED.

5. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH AGREEMENT THAT MEMBERS WOULD CONSULT THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND THAT MATTER WOULD BE TAKEN UP BY LOCAL WEO GROUP AT NEXT MEETING, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25. FYI: AUSTRIANS, CANADIANS AND SWEDES PRIVATELY AND SEPARATELY EXPRESSED THEIR RESENTMENT TO US REPS OVER WHAT THEY PERCEIVED AS ATTEMPT BY EC GROUP TO RAILROAD DECISION. ALL DISAVOWED ANY OPPOSITION TO SPANISH CANDIDATE BUT FELT THAT GROUP SHOULD AT LEAST GO THROUGH CONFIDENTIAL

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FORMALITY OF FULL CONSULTATIONS, EVEN IF NO OTHER CANDIDATES ARE LIKELY. NORWEGIANS AND SWEDES RULE OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF SCANDANAVIAN CANDIDATE AND CANADIAN LIKEWISE RULED OUT POSSIBILITY OF CANADIAN CANDIDATE, ALTHOUGH HE IS SEEKING CONFIRMATION FROM OTTAWA. RECOMMENDATION: US DELEGATION TO INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS UNABLE DETECT ANY OPPOSITION TO SPANISH CANDIDACY PER SE AND THERE APPEARS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT OTHER WEO CANDIDATES WILL EMERGE. DEL RECOMMENDS THAT IN FURTHER LOCAL WEOG CONSULTATIONS, PERMREP BE AUTHORIZED (A) TO NOTE THAT THE US DOES NOT INTEND TO PUT FORWARD A CANDIDATE; (B) TO NOTE US AGREEMENT THAT CANDIDATE SHOULD COME FROM STATE WHOSE MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL EXTENDS THROUGH GC VII AND THAT EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON IMPORTANCE OF CHAIRMANSHIP ABILITY; AND (C) THAT US PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANY CANDIDATE RECEIVING FULL SUPPORT OF OTHER WEO'S AND WOULD IN THIS REGARD WELCOME WELL-QUALIFIED SPANISH CANDIDATE. PERMREP WILL BE GUIDED BY FORGOING IN ABSENCE OTHER INSTRUCTIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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